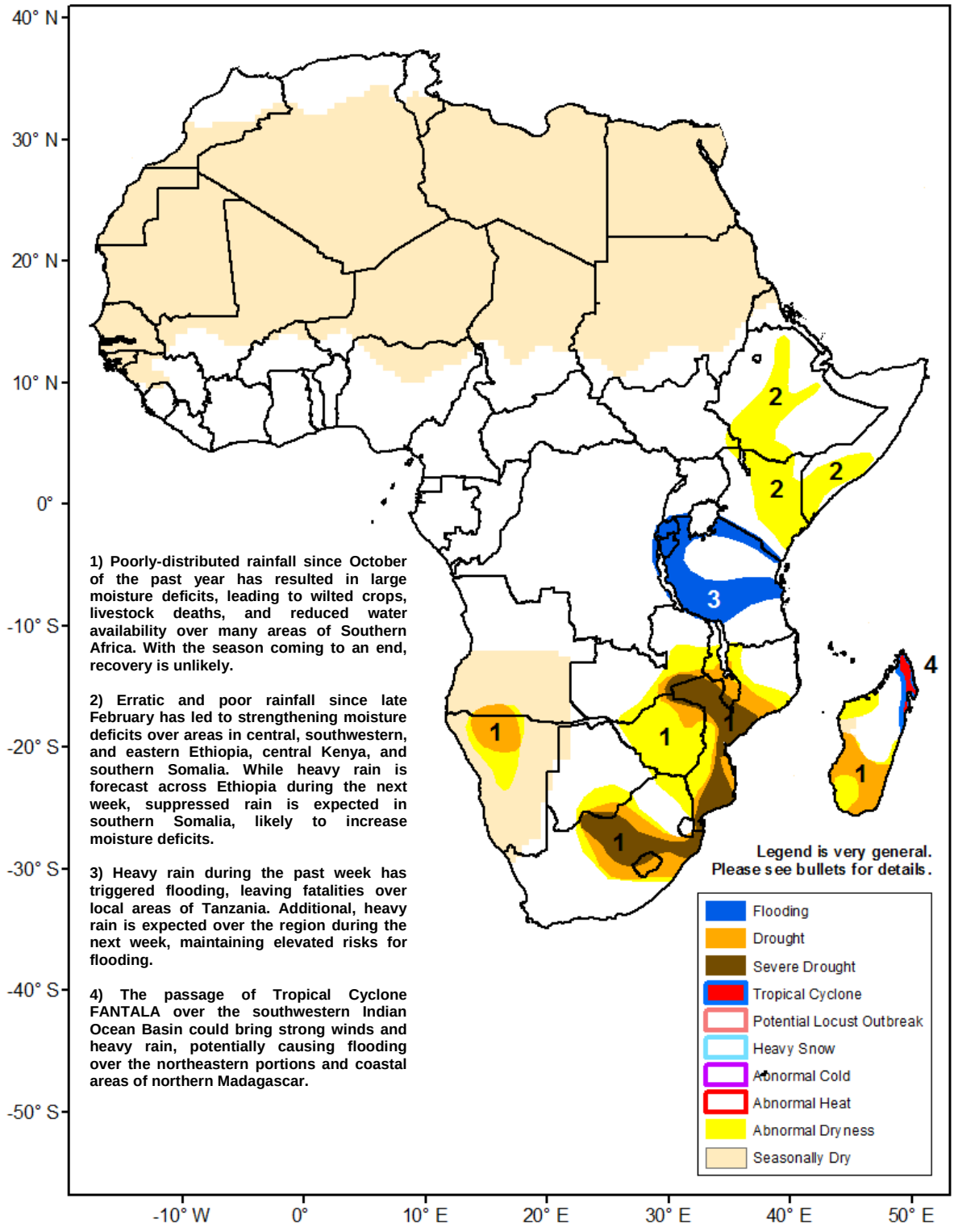
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 21 – April 27, 2016

- **Abnormal dryness has settled in over the Greater Horn of Africa despite a recent increase in rainfall.**
- **Suppressed rain was observed over much of Southern Africa during the past week.**



1) Poorly-distributed rainfall since October of the past year has resulted in large moisture deficits, leading to wilted crops, livestock deaths, and reduced water availability over many areas of Southern Africa. With the season coming to an end, recovery is unlikely.

2) Erratic and poor rainfall since late February has led to strengthening moisture deficits over areas in central, southwestern, and eastern Ethiopia, central Kenya, and southern Somalia. While heavy rain is forecast across Ethiopia during the next week, suppressed rain is expected in southern Somalia, likely to increase moisture deficits.

3) Heavy rain during the past week has triggered flooding, leaving fatalities over local areas of Tanzania. Additional, heavy rain is expected over the region during the next week, maintaining elevated risks for flooding.

4) The passage of Tropical Cyclone FANTALA over the southwestern Indian Ocean Basin could bring strong winds and heavy rain, potentially causing flooding over the northeastern portions and coastal areas of northern Madagascar.

Dryness has settled in over Equatorial Eastern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, while some parts of Eastern Africa have accumulated ample and above-average rain, some areas of the sub-region have received insufficient rain. Positive thirty-day rainfall surpluses were observed in eastern and localized areas of central Ethiopia and northern Somalia due to an increase in rainfall since the beginning of the month. In contrast, below-average rain, with thirty-day deficits ranging between 25-100 mm, was registered farther south across much of Kenya and southern Somalia (**Figure 1**). This uneven distribution of rainfall has sustained moisture deficits, negatively impacting agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas. Vegetation indices derived from remote sensing and crop performance model have already indicated below-average conditions over many local areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia. During the past week, a favorable distribution of rainfall, with widespread moderate to heavy and above-average rain, was recorded across South Sudan, west-central and eastern Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, Djibouti, and northern Somalia. Enhanced rain also continued over Uganda, while light and slightly below-average rain was registered elsewhere.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of widespread, heavy rain over Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and the Lake Victoria region of southwestern Kenya (**Figure 2**). This should help reduce rainfall deficits over some local areas of Ethiopia. Farther south, little to light rain is, however, forecast over eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, possibly maintaining thirty-day moisture deficits in the region. More rain is needed to eliminate moisture deficits, replenish soil moisture, and benefit agro-pastoral activities across the region.

Suppressed rain observed in Southern Africa.

During the past week, suppressed rain was recorded across much of Southern Africa. However, heavy downpours fell in northwestern Angola, the eastern and localized areas of Tanzania (**Figure 3**). According to media reports, this past week's abundant rain triggered flooding and resulted in fatalities and several affected people in the Mbeya, Zanzibar, and Kilimanjaro regions of the country. As the season is approaching to an end in Southern Africa, this past week's rainfall was mostly average throughout the sub-region. Over the past thirty days, many areas to the east, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Madagascar have experienced wetter than average conditions, while areas to the west such as Angola, western Zambia, Namibia, and South Africa have received below-average rain. Recent vegetation indices have indicated the adverse impacts of the poorly-distributed Southern Africa monsoonal rainfall over many areas. During the next week, suppressed rain is expected over much of Southern Africa. However, the passage of Tropical Cyclone FANTALA over the southwestern Indian Ocean could bring strong winds and heavy rain, which may trigger localized flooding in northeastern Madagascar.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 21 – April 19, 2016

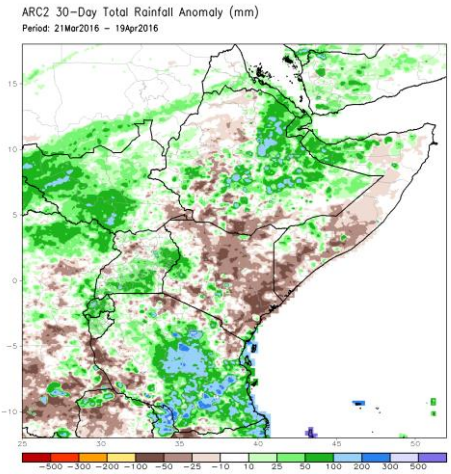


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

GFS Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: April 21 - April 27, 2016

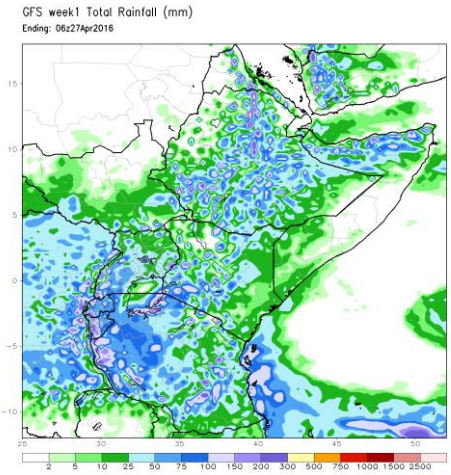


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 13 – April 19, 2016

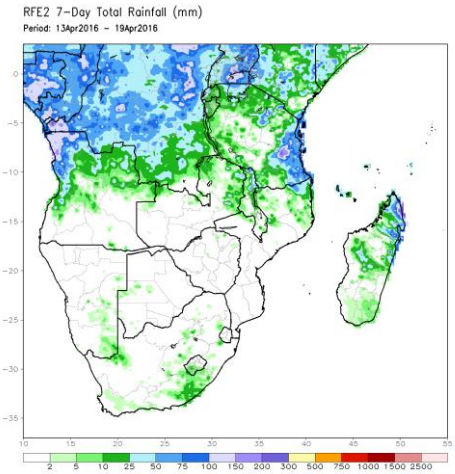


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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